(b) whether it is also proposed to introduce this system in other Central Jails in a phased manner;

(c) if so, the names of the jails and the time-frame within which these jails would be covered; and

(d) the cost savings and other multiple benefits to be derived out of this new system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Delhi High Court has directed the Government to amend section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 so as to enable the Central Jail, Tihar to produce undertrial prisoners/accused before the Magistrate through the Video Linkage System for extension of their remand.

(b) and (c) The Central Government Scheme of computerisation of city civil courts, apart from Delhi, is being implemented in the three Metro cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai which also includes provision for video conferencing. The State Governments are implementing the Scheme.

(d) The electronic Video linkage facility will be helpful in speedy disposal of remand cases by the courts. It will, *inter-alia*, reduce the cost of transportation of undertrials besides addressing the security issues connected with the production of undertrials in courts. According to the Government of NCT Delhi, the new system is likely to save Rs. 4.5 crore pert annum in Delhi alone.

Strengthening of Lok Adalats

†4169. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to strengthen the procedure of Lok Adalats in order to provide speedy and affordable justice;

(b) whether functioning of Lok Adalats is giving much relief to victims of long and formal procedure of courts;

(c) whether Government are considering any alternative system for speedy disposal of pending cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a), (c) and (d) A Bill to add a new chapter in the Legal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Services Authority Act, 1987, which will facilitate setting up of permanent Lok Adalats for providing compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases relating to public utility services has already been introduced in Lok Sabha. When passed by the Parliament, it will enable the National Legal Services Authority or the State Legal Service Authority, as the case may be, to establish permanent Lok Adalat at such places and in such numbers as may be expedient to enable the Lok Adalats to exercise its jurisdiction in respect of one or more public utility services as necessary from time to time. The permanent Lok Adalats would have jurisdiction regarding public utility services such as transport (air, road, water), postal, telegraph or telephone, power, water, sanitation, hospitals and insurance. To avoid prolonged litigation it has also been proposed that the award made by the Lok Adalat shall be final, binding and shall not be questioned in any original suit, application or execution proceeding. The jurisdiction of the lok Adalats would be limited to cases up to a monetary value of Rs. 10 lakhs. Under clause 22C of the Legal Services Authorities (amendment) Bill, 2002, Government has power to increase the limit of ten lakh rupees in consultation with National Legal Services Authority.

(b) Lok Adalats are providing to be beneficial to the litigants and are giving much wanted relief to them from the long and formal procedure of the Courts. So far, about 1.4 crore cases have been settled by Lok Adalats across the country.

Strengthening of subordinate judiciary

4170. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India in its recent judgement have been certain directions to Government for strenghening the functioning of the subordinate judiciary—foundation of the edifice of the judicial system viz., to increase judge-population ratio, revision of pay scales, method of recruitment, promotional avenues to higher judicial service, free official accommodation etc;

(b) whether these directions are based on the recommendations of Justice Shetty Commission Report;

(c) if so, when was the report submitted;

(d) whether Government have formulated a detailed scheme for implementation based on the direction of Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?